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**NEW MACHINES AND PROCESSES INCREASE BRICK AND CEMENT OUTPUT,
BUT KARELIAN AND AKMOLINSK PLANTS LAG BEHIND**

QUICK DRYING UPS BRICK OUTPUT -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 80, 6 Apr 49

During the first 3 months of 1949 workers of the Nikol'sk Brick Plant released 233,000 rubles of working capital and achieved above-plan accumulations of 266,000 rubles by shortening the brick-drying process from 6 to 4 hours by means of a change in the rate of heating. A combination fuel, introduced for firing, cut the time required for firing from 10 to 6 hours. The average daily output of bricks was raised from 66,000 to 104,000. The plant has reached the 1950 level of production.

NEW DRY BRICK PRESS DEVELOPED -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 71, 26 Mar 49

A rotary dry brick press has been developed by inventor A. A. Melija. It is capable of producing 7,200 bricks per hour, compared with the output of only 2,000 bricks per hour of the German Spengler system and the American Boyd system. The capacity of the new Soviet machine is 30 million bricks per year or 9 freight car loads per shift. The press makes not only regular bricks, but also five-sided, and perforated bricks, and solid and hollow oblique slabs of various sizes. It also can be adapted to the production of bricks with relief ornamentation.

CASPIAN CEMENT PLANT GETS NEW FURNACE -- Zarya Vostoka, No 64, 3 Apr 49

On 1 April, workers of the Caspian Cement Plant, Georgian SSR, put into operation a large new rotary furnace which will almost double the capacity of the plant.

ZAGOREK PLANT ACHIEVES SAVINGS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 71, 26 Mar 49

Workers of the Zagorsk Insulation Materials Plant released one million rubles of working capital during the first 2 months of 1949.

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PUDOZH BRICK PLANT WORKING AGAIN -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 58, 25 Mar 49

The brick plant in Pudozh, Karelo-Finnish SSR, began operations again 5 March 1949, after being closed for reconstruction. When navigation opens on Lake Onega, various machinery will be brought in from Petrozavodsk to mechanize the plant. The plant will produce up to 600,000 bricks per year.

MINSK BRICK PLANT COMPLETES QUARTER PLAN -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 60, 25 Mar 49

Workers of Minsk Brick Plant No 2 have completed the first-quarter plan for finished production.

GLASS CONTAINER PLANT SAVES ELECTRIC POWER -- Kommunist, No 78, 3 Apr 49

The Yerevan Glass Container Plant has begun a drive to conserve electric power. During the last 10 days of March, one shift was able to save 7,246 kilowatt-hours. Lower consumption of electricity per ton of finished goods has resulted in an increased output of glass containers.

KARELIAN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY IMPROVES -- Leninskoye Znamya, No 26, 8 Feb 49

V. S. Rozhanovskiy, Minister of the Construction Materials Industry Karelo-Finnish SSR, reports that the industry fulfilled the 1948 gross production plan 101.7 percent, with a 62-percent production increase over 1947. As of 1 January, 21,000 square meters of housing area had been restored or newly built. The following of the 12 operating enterprises of the industry did not fulfilled the 1948 plan: Sulazhgorskiy, Solomenskiy, and Letnerechenskiy brick plants, the house-building plant, the timber management, the Priladozhskoye Mine Administration, and the cement plant. There were many complaints, particularly about brick produced by the Letnerechenskiy plant, and also about lime, standard houses, and pegmatite.

In 1949 the enterprises of the ministry must increase production output 23.3 percent over 1948, and must utilize the 5.8 million rubles allocated to capital construction within the industry.

AKMOLINSK CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS LAG -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 48, 9 Mar 49

Production of construction materials is seriously lagging in Akmolinsk. Output of brick, cement, alabaster, and lime does not meet the demands of enterprises in the city, which has the Republic's chief agricultural machinery plant, "Kazakhsel'mash," a locomotive depot, a railroad car-repair plant, a railroad-tie-impregnating plant, and is the junction of the main lines of the Karaganda and Stalinsk-Magnitogorsk Trunk Lines. The construction-materials plant authorized in 1947 by the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry has been held up twice by a shortage of bricks. The two brick plants in Akmolinsk, one semimechanized and the other a home workshop, are operated inefficiently.

Adequate supplies of such raw materials as gypsum, alabaster, lime, limestone, marl, and white and colored clay are found in the vicinity.

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